

Recent Happenings in the World of Women

The Antis
Are Still
On the JobNational Headquarters
Moves From Washington
to New York City

Hopeful of 18 States

Claim Voting Women Have
Not Backed Men Who
Supported Suffrage Cause

ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS are on the job and ready for active work against the Federal woman suffrage amendment from this time on. The national headquarters of the organization was moved to New York last week, and will have the same address as the State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, 268 Madison Avenue.

The women who have been organized to work against the Federal amendment say that the first victories of the suffrage measure on its ratification trip were to be expected. Certain states, which they call "double suffrage" states, would naturally ratify at once.

New York the
Centre of Radicalism

However, they believe that they will be able to swing at least eighteen state legislatures against the amendment. Their first victory was in Georgia, and, although Alabama has not finally refused ratification, it is believed that it will fail there.

Miss Mary G. Kilbreth was recently appointed president of the National Association Opposed to the Suffrage of Mrs. James W. Wadsworth, Jr., who resigned two weeks ago, and is now honorary president of the organization. Miss Kilbreth said last week that there was a strong movement throughout the South and in New England to defeat ratification.

The New York organization is the only organization of women voters fighting their right to vote. Now that the work for and against suffrage in Washington is done New York is headquarters for all organizations concerning themselves with either side of the question. Miss Kilbreth pointed out that New York was the centre of socialism and feminism and other movements to which the association is opposed.

State Suffragists and
Antis Work Together

A brisk fight is being waged by the anti-suffragists in New Jersey. A referendum on the measure is the object of those opposed to suffrage. In Texas an organization of men is working for a referendum that shall be retroactive and neutralize what the Legislature has done. In Alabama the Anti-Ratification League has been formed to fight the Federal amendment, though some of its members are for suffrage by states' action. Anti-suffragists and state suffragists are working side by side under the slogan "Alabama for Alabamians," against the Federal amendment.

Miss Francis Benson, executive secretary of the Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, said that there was little discouragement in the hearts of the women voters working against the amendment, because they believe that the political significance which certain leaders have attributed to woman suffrage has been overestimated.

"There is no reason for men who want to run for office to be afraid of the women's vote simply on the suffrage issue," said Miss Benson. "Look at the New York election two years ago! The suffragists overplayed their power and fell down on delivering the vote. The tickets that were split on Whitman showed how little a man's record on suffrage meant to the average woman voter."

"Another striking example of this fetish of the importance of the woman vote is the reelection of the representatives to Congress from New York after they had voted against the Federal amendment. Four of New York's representatives voted against the Federal amendment in 1918. They said, and their friends said, that it meant their political deaths. In spite of this, however, they ran last fall and were reelected, women voting for them."

The New York
Girl Crop Is
Two-Thirds ShortDemand for Unskilled Work-
ers Far Exceeds Supply, but
Specialized Jobs Go Begging

J OBS for girls and not more than one-third enough girls to fill them! That is the verdict rendered by several employment agencies in New York on the situation as to the employment of women and girls.

Although many of the leaders in the employment service of the Y. W. C. A. are out of town, the service is going right on and five secretaries are on the job themselves every day trying to find girls for jobs.

The time is past when it is the common task of the employment bureau to find a job for the girl. The process is reversed, and according to the Y. W. workers most of their telephone calls are from employers wanting to know how soon they can find stenographers, file clerks or just plain clerical workers for them.

The greatest demand is for unskilled workers, according to the Y. W. C. A. This classification includes telephone girls, file clerks and such jobs. Most of the employers want girls with a high school education at least. They usually pay from \$12 to \$15 a week to beginners. Many of them offer \$10 a week, but it is almost impossible to get a girl to consider such a low wage. Miss Dorothy Wells is in charge of the desk-attending to these jobs.

Stenographers and more stenographers are demanded by New York business houses. The Y. W. employment department simply cannot find enough stenographers to make even a slight impression on the demand. The salaries paid run from \$18 to \$25. Fewer girls have been registering in this line, and many of the business schools say that they simply haven't the pupils to turn out.

Domestic servants have been supplanted in the Y. W. scheme of things by what is called the home worker. She works for eight hours at regular domestic work. Her schedule is laid out under the supervision of Miss Frances White. Miss White's demands for workers are now almost one-half as much again as the applications she has for work. The home workers receive from \$12 to \$18 a week.

Perhaps the only desk in town where there are more jobs than girls is that of Mrs. Shepherd Morgan in the Y. W. C. A., which is being managed at present by Miss Marjorie Jean Wilson. Miss Wilson is handling special jobs for which the applicants must be fitted temperamentally as well as by education. The notable feature of these highly specialized positions is that, although they require much of the persons applying, they do not pay so much as some of the places making fewer requirements.

Programme of League
For Woman's Service

WHILE many other organizations are vacationing and summering, the National League for Woman's Service in New York starts a new enterprise in town. Recently the Summer Club reading and writing room was opened at the national headquarters, 257 Madison Avenue, by the league.

Out-of-town members passing through New York or in the city for a short time on business have the privileges of the clubrooms. Canteen service in the basement provides lunch and tea.

Other branches which the league is keeping up are the work with its ambulances, cooperation with the International Music Festival Chorus and other lines in which it is helping and fitting in with organizations in various fields.

A history of the league is to be published soon. The reports of local chairmen have been worked into the history and war activities are described from canteen and ambulance work to bandage making.

Representative Class of the Older Foreign Women Reached
by Americanization ProgrammeAmerican Women
Married to Aliens
Lose PropertySpecial Legislation Neces-
sary to Restore Such
Estate Under Way

AMERICAN women who married German and Austrian subjects, and thus became enemy aliens will not be able to recover their property seized under the trading with the enemy act by their husbands becoming American citizens, in the opinion of officials of the Alien Property Custodian's office.

Specific legislation by Congress will be necessary before any of the property held by the Alien Property Custodian will be returned to its owners, it was said at Mr. Garvan's office.

"In fact, the property may never be returned to the American women whose marriage to foreign noblemen made them enemy aliens," said one of the alien property officials. "The peace treaty provides that Congress has the power to enact legislation that will authorize the utilization of enemy property for the payment of American claims against the Central governments. If this is done, the securities formerly owned by American women who married titles will be used in making reparation for the losses sustained by Americans in the war with Germany and Austria."

The Countess Laszlo Szechenyi, formerly Gladys Vanderbilt, and the Countess Anton Sigay, who was Harriet Daly, of Butte, Mont., the sister-in-law of former Ambassador Gerard, two of the women affected by the seizures, are living modestly in Switzerland, according to report. Anita Stewart, of New York, is the Princess Braganza of Hungary, and is now in straitened circumstances in Switzerland. And Nora Iselin, of New York, the Countess Coloredo-Mannsfeld, is now a citizen of Austria-Hungary, and is said to have gone into trade.

These and many other American-born heiresses lost their citizenship when they were married to foreign husbands. They were classed as alien enemies as soon as the United States entered the war.

While no legislation governing the disposal of alien property has yet been suggested to Congress by Alien Property Custodian Garvan, it is likely that upon the ratification of the peace treaty the State Department will be asked to furnish Congress with the amount of American claims against Germany and Austria. With these claims as a basis it is thought likely that Congress will pass a law giving the Alien Property Custodian the right to convert the holdings of aliens into reparation funds with which to meet these American claims.

Representative La Guardia, of New York, last Saturday introduced a resolution in the House providing for the return of all enemy property seized by the government. This measure, it was said recently at Mr. Garvan's office, had not been suggested by the Alien Property Custodian.

Education of Illiterate Women
Voters Through Neighborhood
Classes in HomemakingBy Geraldine H. Murray
Albany, N. Y.,
Special Correspondence

WHAT part of the \$100,000 appropriated last year by the Legislature of New York State for Americanization work is being used to educate illiterate women? A big department, created, in part, by that act, is busy every day preparing to make all of New York State read and write English. A bill proposing a new voting regulation was passed last year taking from illiterates the right of suffrage. The measure is to be up for referendum at next election. According to the Federal census of 1910, there are 218,513 females of the state over ten years of age unable to read or write English.

Women, the homemakers, can't get to night school. That is one of the first propositions which workers in Americanizing the foreign-born illiterates discovered early. They either work in factories, where their day's work uses all their vitality, or they are mothers of big families, weighed down with the cares of the house. In either case school, unless it is made the easiest thing in the world, is practically impossible.

Care of Babies
Taught in English

What to do for these women became one of the big problems which had to be solved immediately by the State Department of Americanization. W. C. Smith, supervisor of the division, appointed women organizers to go forward with the work. Miss Clara B. Springstead, of Albany, assistant supervisor of the department, has found that the factory class and the "home and neighborhood class" plans have worked like a charm.

According to the Americanization department there are four classes of people to whom the home and neighborhood class appeals especially—women who cannot leave their homes because of small children and household duties, girls who work in stores and factories, whose parents will not permit them to go out to night school alone (this applies to all Italian girls and many other nationalities), and men who work all night, or who work too late to reach night school in time.

A class organized within their own environment accomplishes more than the ordinary night school class among the foreigners, the Americanization workers have discovered. The natural shyness, timidity and fear of the foreign-born for things American are more rapidly overcome. Direct avenues of approach are opened to better hygienic and sanitary conditions, cleaner and better prepared food, a more balanced diet, greater attention to proper care of babies and children, and other strictly home affairs.

"Through the home class the teacher may become the connecting link between the foreign man or woman and the proper outside agencies which they need to help them," says Miss Springstead. "At home the teacher has an opportunity to find out more easily than she could in the classroom about the

previous life in the old country. This knowledge is essential to the satisfactory progress of the class.

"Perhaps the most important feature, however, of the home class is the strengthening of the tie between the foreign mother and her children. They are educated in the American schools. With her new knowledge of English the mother insures New York State of future citizens who will be sturdy, loyal Americans."

The work has born fruit. In Ballston Spa, a small manufacturing city just south of Saratoga Springs, where thousands of foreigners are employed, it has been the beginning of a remarkable community centre house, planned and run by the foreign women themselves. The house was given through some philanthropic agency, but the rest of the work has been done, practically all of it, by the women. It was opened May 30, with a library, dance hall, reading rooms and recreation rooms just for the foreign-born population of the city. Here all the classes in English and civics, and the other branches of study which the more advanced students like, are taught. It is the social, recreational and educational centre of a whole community. And it is succeeding in making English the language and American the customs of hundreds of foreign men and women.

Factory classes have had more publicity. They have become one of the most popular phases of the Americanization work in the large cities. New York City has more than forty classes now in session in the industrial centres of its business. Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Watertown and Albany all have a number of classes in progress. There will be more, for last year's Legislature also passed a law making necessary "continuation schools" in factories where illiterates or persons between fourteen and eighteen are employed.

Factory Girls Attend
Lunch Hour Classes

Girls who are busy in factories never hesitate to join the class in English which is being formed for a part of their lunch hour. Most of the factory owners are willing to devote some few minutes of the day to the English teacher, but the girls themselves are more than eager to learn. Women fifty years old were among the eager students of the first factory class in the state at Albany last summer. They spent days learning to write, after their teacher, "cat," "hat," "coat" and other simple words which were taken from their surroundings and could be rapidly applied by them.

The Americanization division of the education department intends to devise other means to reach the non-English-speaking woman. The military census of 1917, which is being filed and made ready for use by the department, will, after September 1, be able to furnish teachers and organizations throughout the state with statistics, brought up to date, of every county and locality within the state. Organizers and expert workers are being sent into the rural districts, where much pioneering

Dr. Ella A. Boole, of Brooklyn, a leader in the
International W. C. T. U. ContentionWorld's W. C. T. U. to Meet
In Westminster Abbey

MORE history is to be made in Westminster Abbey.

During the week of April 18, 1920, the doors of that sacred edifice will be opened for the first time to a convention of women, the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

"The mothers of the world are represented in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and those affiliated with the organization are to be the guests of the National British W. C. T. U. from April 18 to 23," says an announcement from the local publicity office of the W. C. T. U. "Lady Carlyle will greet the delegates and thousands of them are expected."

April 18 will be called the World's Convention Sunday. Prayers will be scheduled throughout the world by the W. C. T. U. and the meeting in Westminster Abbey will be held with the Bishop of Croyden as chief officiant.

The Bishop of Williston and the Bishop of Woolwich will preach and several others of the noted British clergy will have a part in the service. The Bishop of London will

must still be done to increase the interest and enlist the sympathies of the Americans there in spreading their nationality. In these two first steps, however, according to the belief of the department heads and in the judgment of the education department, Americans and foreigners are being successfully merged.

English Labor Leader Says
Co-operative Guilds Will
Lower Food PricesTrade Unionist to
Head Women in
Industry Service

Mary Anderson has been named by the Secretary of Labor in Washington as head of the Women in Industry Service to succeed Mary Van Kleeck, whose resignation was handed in recently to take effect September 1. Miss Anderson has been Miss Van Kleeck's assistant since the service was started more than a year ago.

Mary Anderson is a labor union woman. For years she has been a member of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. She is of Swedish birth, coming to this country when she was very young. Last spring she was sent to Paris as one of the two American women representatives to the labor conference.

Margaret Bondfield Sailed
for England After Six
Weeks' Study of Con-
ditions in America

MARGARET BONDFIELD, delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the American Federation of Labor, gave her farewell address in the ballroom of the Hotel Astor last Friday evening, under the auspices of the Women's International League of Greater New York, and sailed for England yesterday.

When interviewed about the present cost of food in England Miss Bondfield replied, "How can any one answer such a question after being away from England six weeks? But I should like to tell you about our English women's way of keeping down the cost of food."

"Of course, every one has heard of our cooperative stores that have spread over England until to-day every third person in England is fed by the cooperatives, but not every one knows of our women's cooperative guilds. We're the world's spenders, we women. Our men bring us their pay of a Saturday night and ask us to make it go as far as we can. It's odd, isn't it, that when the men first organized cooperative stores in England they didn't take the women in on the project, but they didn't."

Tragedies in
Tea and Jam

"Well, there were those blessed men, working away all by themselves trying to stock stores to suit us, telling us we must buy there and never consulting us at all about what we would like to have in them. Now you have to work for a thing a while and get to love it in order to want to fight for it. So when the cooperative stores came on hard times, when the big business interests were trying to undermind them, or when our men hadn't put in the brand of tea or jam or pickles that we liked best, we women didn't feel 'foreordained from the foundations of the world' to trade in the cooperatives, that is, some of us didn't, and our men were hurt and angry and reproached us with stupidity and lack of loyalty, not seeing that it was their own blindness that was at fault, never giving us a chance to develop our loyalty."

"Finally, some of the women who really saw things in a big way realized that the wives would have to be organized to stand behind the cooperative stores if they were to be a great success. We established the Women's Cooperative Guild, with a branch for every store. We are consulted about the brands of goods we want; we inspect the stores to see just how sanitary and neat and attractive they can be made. We canvass our neighborhoods for new subscribers to the cooperative. If there is a family whose patronage is falling off we look them up and find out why."

Women Back the
Men's Guilds

"We fight for maternity benefits, accident and old age pensions, and so strong is our national organization that Parliamentary committees consult us as to the needs of women and ask for our recommendations, for they have found from experience that the data we collect from neighborhood investigations are reliable and that our demands are based on an actual knowledge of conditions in workmen's homes."

"I was surprised when I came to this country to find that your 3,000 or more cooperative organizations have not been reinforced in this fashion. Canada has done so and I think it would be a wonderful thing if you women in the United States would do the same. It is one of the practical ways of helping to keep down the unnecessary expense of food and one of the practical ways for getting a leverage at Washington."

Whatever Margaret Bondfield is based on experience, for she is to-day one of the most experienced of Englishwomen in public affairs. She will probably run for Parliament at the next election and in the English labor world it is said that, with the advent of a labor majority in Parliament, she may hold a position in the cabinet.